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Item 7 (h) of the provisional agenda[1]

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

(h) CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES OR INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS TO ASSIST THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN REGULARLY REVIEWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

INTRODUCTION

1. By its decision 6/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an ad hoc working group to review and analyze in depth, at the fourth session, reports submitted at its third session and reports which will be submitted at its fourth session in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention.

2. By the same decision, the Executive Secretary of the Convention was requested to make all necessary arrangements for the above-mentioned ad hoc working group to fulfil its mandate and to meet at the fourth session.

3. Attached hereto is the proposed organization of works for the meeting of the ad hoc working group, which was prepared in accordance with paragraph 6 of decision 6/COP.3 and taking into consideration the written proposals contained in ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.7, as well as further comments received from country Parties.

[1] ICCD/COP(4)/1.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE IN-DEPTH REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF REPORTS SUBMITTED AT THE THIRD AND FOURTH SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

I. MANDATE

4. The ad hoc working group (AHWG) shall, in accordance with decision 6/COP.3, review and analyze in depth, at the fourth session, reports submitted at its third session and reports which will be submitted at its fourth session in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention.

II. NATURE OF THE REVIEW PROCESS

5. The process should be conducted in a facilitative, constructive and transparent manner with the participation of all Parties, and non-state actors, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It should also be flexible and promote experience-sharing and best practices.

III. OBJECTIVES

6. The overall objective of the review process is to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention. To this aim, the AHWG will:

(a) identify and analyze obstacles in implementing the Convention, to grasp the present status of the process with its difficulties and shortcomings, and draw lessons for the future;

(b) identify positive examples of progress in implementing the Convention, including the successful completion of NAPs and the negotiation of partnership agreements;

(c) advise on the required consultation mechanisms between Parties and concerned international institutions to promote the implementation of the Convention through partnership agreements;

(d) find ways and means to improve the procedure for communication of information to the Conference of the Parties and encourage agreement on benchmarks and implementation indicators for future improvement of the review process.

IV. COMPOSITION

7. The ad hoc working group shall be composed of:

(a) Representatives of affected country Parties which have submitted their reports to the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Representatives of developed country Parties;

(c) Representatives of observers, intergovernmental and accredited non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and its specialized agencies;

(d) The chairmen of the regional and interest groups;

(e) The Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology.

8. The UNCCD secretariat will provide services to the meeting of the AHWG. At the request of the AHWG, the Global Mechanism will provide information consistent with its mandate.

9. The composition of the Bureau of the AHWG will be discussed and decided at the first session of the Committee of the Whole. It is suggested that the AHWG Bureau be composed of 3 to 5 members. The Chairman of the AHWG will be an ex-officio member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

V. METHODOLOGY AND CRITERIA TO REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION

10. The modalities of analysis of the information will depend on the criteria selected for the review of the implementation process. The geographical approach may be retained as the most appropriate and consistent basis to compare findings at national, sub-regional and regional levels and in future review meetings.

11. Therefore, the following information should be considered:

(a) The national reports from affected country Parties pursuant to decision 11/COP.1, paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6;

(b) The advice and information provided by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism consistent with their respective mandates, pursuant to decision 11/COP.1, paragraphs 18 and 19;

(c) The other reports on implementation pursuant to decision 11/COP.1, paragraphs 7 and 9.

The options for enhancing synergies with other conventions will also be considered by the AHWG.

VI. DURATION AND SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS

12. The mandate of the AHWG calls for an in-depth review of the reports submitted to the third and fourth sessions of the COP. A total of 115 national reports were submitted by affected country Parties. African countries submitted 42 national reports to COP 3 and affected countries of regions other than Africa submitted 73 national reports to COP 4. In addition, developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) submitted 34 reports to COP 3 and 26 reports to COP 4 on measures taken to assist the implementation of the Convention.

13. Given the large quantity of reports to be reviewed (annex I), it is proposed that the ad hoc working group will commence its work at the coming session of the COP, and conclude its activities in two inter-sessional meetings.

14. It is also proposed that the review be initially focused on individual reports from affected country Parties. The reports from developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will be considered jointly as they relate to the national reports submitted by affected developing country Parties.

15. It was suggested that the review of national reports could take place along thematic lines or, alternatively, by regions or subregions. However, even under such circumstances, it is unlikely that an in-depth review of all reports could take place at COP 4.

A. AHWG meeting during the fourth session of the COP

16. In accordance with decision 6/COP.3, the AHWG will meet at the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties. The tentative agenda for COP 4 requires 3½ days (7 half-day sessions) for the work and activities of the AHWG. Two additional half-day sessions may be allotted in the second week of the Conference.

17. Given that only a limited number of reports can be reviewed due to time constraints, the following organization of work is proposed:

Region	*Selected country reports*	*Half sessions allotted*	*Total time (days)*
Africa	10	3.0	1.5
Asia	6	2.0	1.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	2.0	1.0
North Mediterranean and other countries	2 + 1	1.0	0.5
Subregional and regional reports	8	1.0	0.5
Total	**33**	**9.0**	**4.5**

18. The selection of the national reports to be reviewed at the first round may be carried out on the basis of the following criteria: (a) adoption and validation of the National Action Programme; (b) date of ratification or accession to the Convention.

The country reports proposed for consideration at the first AHWG meeting in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria are listed in annex II.

B. Inter-sessional AHWG meetings to complete the review of reports

19. To complete the review of all reports submitted to COP 3 and COP 4, two inter-sessional meetings will have to be scheduled in 2001. The first meeting will last ten working days (two weeks) and the second five working days (one week).

20. The tentative work programme for the two inter-sessional AHWG meetings could be as shown in the following two text tables:

Region	*Selected country reports*	*Half sessions allotted*	*Total time (days)*
Africa	22	7.0	3.5
Asia	18	6.0	3.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	16	6.0	3.0
North Mediterranean and other countries	2 + 2	1.0	0.5
Total	**60**	**20.0**	**10.0**

Region	*Selected country reports*	*Half sessions allotted*	*Total time (days)*
Africa	10	3.0	1.5
Asia	9	3.0	1.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	3.0	1.5
North Mediterranean and other countries	1 + 2	1.0	0.5
Total	**30**	**10.0**	**5.0**

21. The country reports proposed for consideration at the inter-sessional AHWG meetings are listed in annex III.

VII. OUTPUT

22. The outcome of the AHWG meetings should be a report on the assessment of the implementation of the Convention and concrete recommendations on how to strengthen the implementation, including an overview of important lessons learnt, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex I

REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE THIRD AND FOURTH SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

	COP 3	COP 4
Reports from affected African country Parties	42	
Reports from developed country Parties on measures taken to assist implementation in the Africa region	15	
Reports from United Nations organizations, IGOs and NGOs on measures taken to assist implementation in the Africa region	19	
Reports from affected Asian country Parties		33
Reports from affected Latin American and the Caribbean country Parties		30
Reports from affected Northern Mediterranean country Parties		5
Reports from other affected country Parties		5
Reports from developed country Parties on measures taken to assist implementation in regions other than Africa		15
Reports from United Nations organizations, IGOs and NGOs on measures taken to assist implementation in regions other than Africa		11
Total	**76**	**99**
Grand total		**175**

Annex II

COUNTRY REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AHWG AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (PER DATE OF RATIFICATION/ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION)

1. Reports from affected African country Parties

1	Cape Verde	08/05/95
2	Senegal	26/07/95
3	Lesotho	12/09/95
4	Tunisia	11/10/95
5	Mali	31/10/95
6	Burkina Faso	26/01/96
7	Benin	29/08/96
8	Swaziland	07/10/96
9	Namibia	16/05/97
10	United Republic of Tanzania	19/06/97

2. Reports from affected Asian country Parties

1	Uzbekistan	31/10/95
2	Mongolia	03/09/96
3	Turkmenistan	18/09/96
4	Lao People's Democratic Republic	20/09/96
5	China	18/02/97
6	Tajikistan	16/07/97

3. Reports from affected Latin American and the Caribbean country Parties

1	Mexico	03/04/95
2	Peru	09/11/95
3	Bolivia	01/08/96
4	Argentina	06/01/97
5	Cuba	13/03/97
6	Chile	11/11/97

4. Reports from Northern Mediterranean and other affected country Parties

1	Portugal	01/04/96
2	Italy	23/06/97
3	Republic of Moldova	10/03/99

Annex III

COUNTRY REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE INTER-SESSIONAL AHWG MEETINGS (PER DATE OF RATIFICATION/ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION)

1. Reports from affected African country Parties

Egypt	07/07/95
Togo	04/10/95
Guinea-Bissau	27/10/95
Sudan	24/11/95
Niger	19/01/96
Algeria	22/05/96
Gambia	11/06/96
Malawi	13/06/96
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	22/07/96
Mauritania	07/08/96
Eritrea	14/08/96
Botswana	11/09/96
Zambia	19/09/96
Chad	27/09/96
Morocco	12/11/96
Ghana	27/12/96
Burundi	06/01/97
Côte d'Ivoire	04/03/97
Mozambique	13/03/97
Cameroon	29/05/97
Djibouti	12/06/97
Guinea	23/06/97
Kenya	24/06/97
Madagascar	25/06/97
Uganda	25/06/97
Ethiopia	27/06/97
Angola	30/06/97
Nigeria	08/07/97
Democratic Republic of the Congo	12/09/97
Zimbabwe	23/09/97
South Africa	30/09/97
Rwanda	22/10/98

2. Reports from affected Asian country Parties

Bangladesh	26/01/96
Lebanon	16/05/96
Oman	23/07/96
Nepal	15/10/96
Jordan	21/10/96
India	17/12/96
Myanmar	02/01/97
Yemen	14/01/97
Pakistan	24/02/97
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	29/04/97
Syrian Arab Republic	10/06/97
Saudi Arabia	25/06/97
Kuwait	27/06/97
Kazakhstan	09/07/97
Bahrain	14/07/97
Kyrgyzstan	19/09/97
Viet Nam	25/08/98
Fiji	26/08/98

Indonesia	31/08/98
Tuvalu	14/09/98
United Arab Emirates	21/10/98
Sri Lanka	09/12/98
Qatar	15/03/99
Singapore	26/04/99
Palau	15/06/99
Republic of Korea	17/08/99
Philippines	10/02/00

3. Reports from affected Latin American and the Caribbean country Parties

Ecuador	06/09/95
Panama	04/04/96
Haiti	25/09/96
Paraguay	15/01/97
Barbados	14/05/97
Grenada	28/05/97
Antigua and Barbuda	06/06/97
Brazil	25/06/97
Honduras	25/06/97
Dominican Republic	26/06/97
Guyana	26/06/97
El Salvador	27/06/97
Saint Kitts and Nevis	30/06/97
Saint Lucia	02/07/97
Jamaica	12/11/97
Dominica	08/12/97
Costa Rica	05/01/98
Nicaragua	17/02/98
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	16/03/98
Venezuela	29/06/98
Belize	23/07/98
Guatemala	10/09/98
Uruguay	17/02/99
Colombia	08/06/99

4. Reports from Northern Mediterranean and other affected country Parties

Spain	30/01/96
Greece	05/05/97
Turkey	31/03/98
Armenia	02/07/97
Azerbaijan	10/08/98
Romania	19/08/98
Georgia	23/07/99

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